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Policy Framework to Improve Rural Transport Connectivity

(Presentation for EST Plenary Session 4 of the Provisional Programme)

Final Draft

This presentation has been prepared by Dr. Madan B. Regmi, UN ESCAP for the Tenth Regional EST Forum in Asia. The views expressed herein are those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

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Policy Framework to Improve Rural Transport Connectivity



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Issues and Challenges to Improve Rural Connectivity

- ❑ Economically viable? Insufficient Funding for roads & maintenance
- ❑ Low priority: the further from towns and urban areas- lower the importance
- ❑ Remote communities -challenging terrain- hills & mountains
- ❑ Lack of coherence between national and rural transport policy
- ❑ Not well engineered and designed, quality of works, quick Road Deterioration
- ❑ Limited know how and use of emerging technologies, guidelines
- ❑ Limited capacities to plan and manage, implement, evaluate and monitor rural transport projects

Policy Framework to Improve Rural Transport Connectivity

Based on:

- ❑ Insights from best practice
- ❑ Lessons from cases
- ❑ Recommendations from research and publications

Goals and Principles

- ❑ Three dimensions of sustainability
- ❑ Considers challenges of climate change, weather impacts
- ❑ Local circumstances and case-specific requirements

- ❑ Supplement national and regional planning frameworks, available technical guidelines, quality control and monitoring mechanism

SUSTAINABILITY

Economic

Social

Environmental

Institutional Authority
& Responsibility



Planning & Preparation



Implementation



Performance Management

Decentralization

Centralization

Status Quo
Analysis

Network
Planning

New
Markets

Funding

Construction

Maintenance

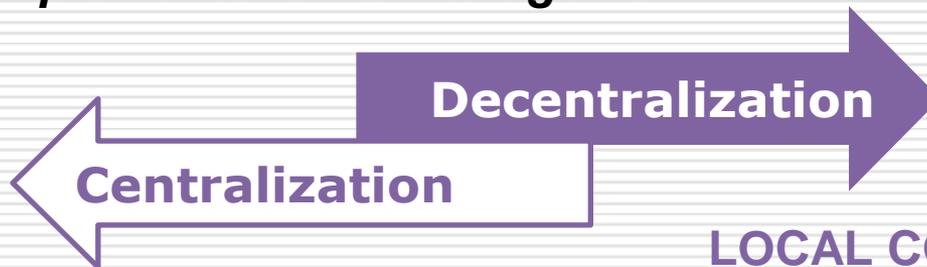
Measure

Evaluate

Improve

Institutional Authority and Responsibility

Assignment of clear and binding roles and responsibilities in planning, implementation & management



CENTRAL AGENCY

- Coordination and monitoring
- Fostering consistency
- Development of knowledge base
- Training and technical assistance to local contractors and authorities
- Connecting communities, development banks, funders
- Enforce national standards on safety, quality and sustainability

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Participatory planning
- Best knowledge of local circumstances & needs
- Strengthen social cohesion & community mobilization
- Ensure local voices and participation

Planning and Preparation

STATUS QUO ANALYSIS

- Need and quality of the local transportation network
- Inventory and condition survey including roads, tracks, paths, footbridges and waterways

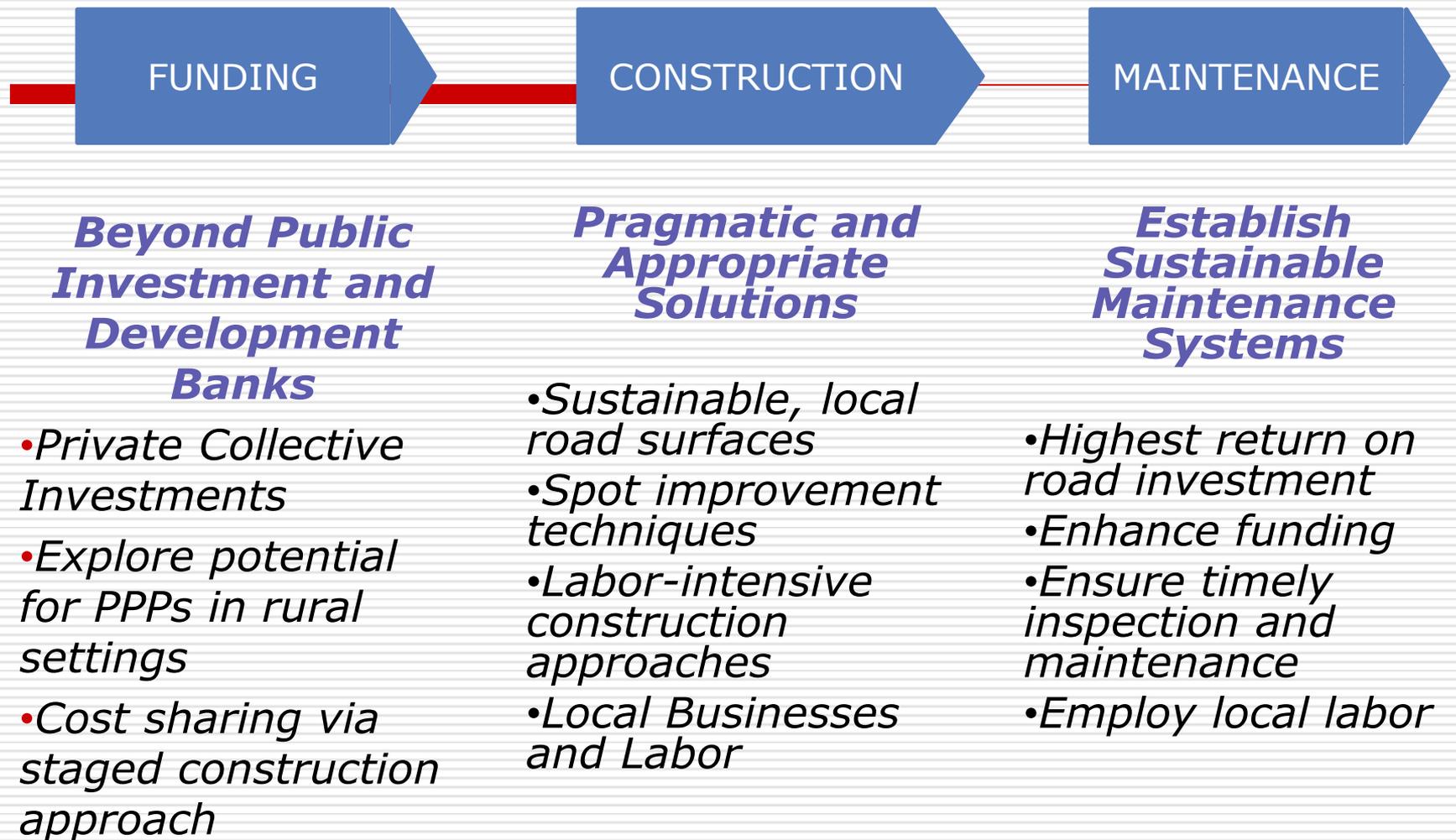
NETWORK PLANNING

- Use data from status quo analysis to prioritize among projects:
- Establish new markets, urban-rural connections, increase food security
- Agricultural potential and employment opportunities for wider region

NEW MARKETS

- Strategic investments that trigger development of new opportunities and markets
- Switch from agricultural to non-agricultural employment

Implementation



Performance Management

MEASURE

Assess Road Quality, Social and Economic Targets

- *Low cost survey techniques*
- *Timely*
- *Consistently*
- *Involvement of local communities*

EVALUATE

Evaluate Goal Attainment through Employed Strategies

- *Derive key learnings for other regions with similar characteristics*

REPLICATE

Refine Programs for Future Investments

- *Derive key learnings for other regions with similar characteristics*
- *Eliminate Risk and Inefficiencies*

Final remarks

- ❑ ***Strong voice on the need to improve evaluation and monitoring*** (Pre-event on Rural Transport)
- ❑ **Improve planning, design, implementation and monitoring of rural connectivity**
- ❑ **Supplement existing national and local guidelines, techniques and standards**
- ❑ **Ensure full project cycle commitment of stakeholders**

Work in Progress



THANK YOU

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